

## DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

July 14, 2004

The Honorable Michael Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Re: Support of AT&T prepaid calling card filing (Docket 03-133)

Dear Chairman Powell:

Today I learned the FCC is expected to issue a ruling that could increase rates for low-priced telephone calling cards. As a former military officer I can attest to the benefit of low-priced cards and the value they bring to military personnel who have been deployed around the globe.

Popular calling cards have rates as low as \$.03 per minute with no monthly fees and are readily available at major retailers and military exchanges. After listening to a quick advertising message, callers can easily call family and friends to maintain some level of personal connection that is so vitally important. It is because of this information or enhanced services designation that the price of calling cards has stayed so low. It's a win-win scenario with local phone companies collecting standard long-distance fees and consumers reaping the benefit of low cost calling through easy to use cards.

If you declare prepaid calling cards basic calling vehicles subject to increased fees, my understanding is prices will increase by 15% or more. Gone will be an affordable option for countless military personnel and consumers. This is an undue burden at a critical time with the thousands of military personnel deployed abroad.

I urge you and your colleagues to carefully evaluate and reject any actions that might negatively impact the option, availability and affordability of today's low-priced telephone calling cards. I urge you to support AT&T's prepaid calling card filing, Docket 03-133. Countless Americans and servicemen and women everywhere are counting on you.

Sincerely,



Uvanney J. Alford  
4200 Tudor Lane  
Anniston, Alabama 36207

Cc: Commissioners Kathleen Q. Abernathy, Michael J. Copps, Kevin J. Martin and  
Jonathan S. Adelstein  
Cc: U.S. Senator Richard Shelby  
U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions

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